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Thursday, November 30, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

ROCK BOTTOM FOR FLYERS?

After losing nine straight games, is a closed-door meeting enough to save the Flyers' season? 22-24

Metro's Philly gift guide. 16-20

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Holidays at

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Something for Everyone

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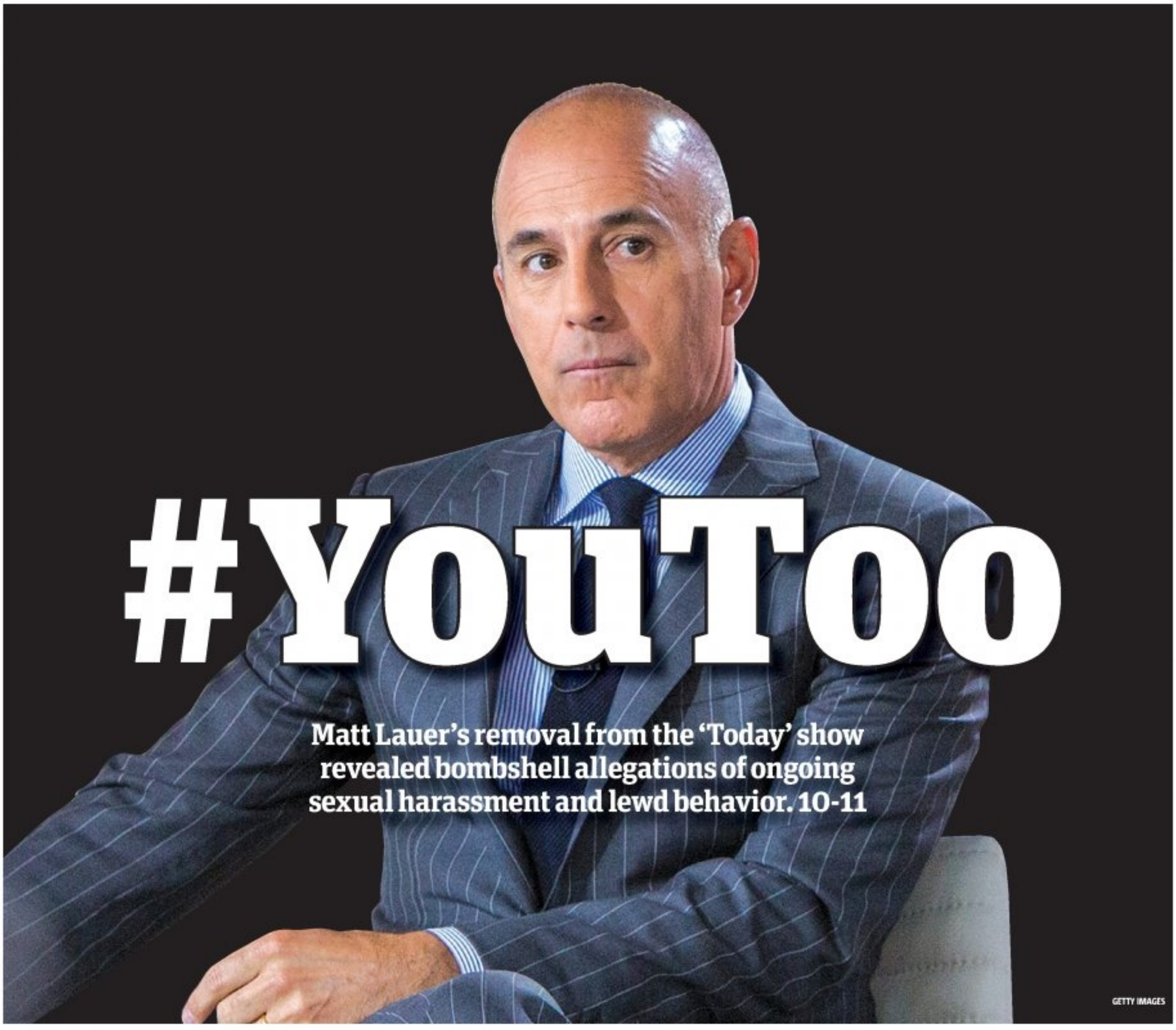

#YouToo

Matt Lauer's removal from the 'Today' show revealed bombshell allegations of ongoing sexual harassment and lewd behavior. 10-11

GETTY IMAGES

WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

JOSHUA CROUTHAMEL, FEATURES EDITOR

I hate shopping ... which makes me the perfect person to help advise you on what to get for everyone on your list. Why? Because I'm ruthlessly efficient, can stick to a budget and order everything online. If you'd like to power through your holiday gift list in a few keystrokes, check out our guide to this year's perfect presents and consider the holidays wrapped. Mazel and Merry, Metro readers!

NORTH KOREA SAYS US MAINLAND IN RANGE

1 North Korea said it successfully tested its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile yet, putting the U.S. mainland within range and increasing pressure on President Trump to deal with the nuclear-armed nation. Trump, who has vowed to halt North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday and urged Beijing to rein in its ally North Korea. North Korea said the new missile reached an altitude of about 2,780 miles - more than 10 times the height of the International Space Station - and flew 590 miles during its 53-minute flight. It flew higher and longer than any North Korean missile before, landing in the sea near Japan. Experts said the new "Hwasong-15" missile theoretically gave North Korea the ability to hit the U.S. mainland, including the East Coast.

GLITCH LEAVES FLIGHTS IN DECEMBER PILOTLESS

2 A system scheduling error has left thousands of American Airlines flights in December without scheduled pilots, the carrier's pilots union said. The Allied Pilots Association estimated that more than 15,000 flights from Dec. 17 to 31 were affected by a glitch in the system in which pilots bid for time off based on seniority. "Basically there's a crisis at American for manning the cockpits," Dennis Tajer, a spokesman for the Allied Pilots Association, said. The system error was disclosed to pilots on Friday, the union said. "We have reserve pilots to help cover flying in December, and we are paying pilots who pick up certain open trips 150 percent of their hourly rate — as much as we are allowed to pay them per the contract," American Airlines spokesman Matt Miller said.

GREECE PROTEST

3 Anti-riot police spray tear gas toward protesters during clashes as protesters attempt to enter a courtroom in Athens on Wednesday. People protesting homes' auctions clashed with police at an Athens court of appeals as foreclosures begin anew as part of reforms under Greece's bailout plans.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

GETTY IMAGES

PANEL NEAR CONSENSUS ON NSA SPY PROGRAM

4 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Intelligence Committee are close to an agreement on how to overhaul a controversial National Security Agency surveillance program and hope to complete legislation soon, the top Democrat on the panel said on Wednesday. Representative Adam Schiff said he had proposed a compromise that would let intelligence agencies query a database of information on Americans in national security cases without a warrant, but would require a warrant to use the information in other cases, such as those involving serious violent crime. "This would prevent law enforcement from simply using the database as a vehicle to go fishing, but at the same time it would preserve the operational capabilities of the program," Schiff told reporters.

BUBBLE TROUBLE? BITCOIN TOPS $11,000

5 Bitcoin zoomed past $11,000 to hit a record high for the sixth day in a row on Wednesday after gaining more than $1,000 in just 12 hours, stoking concerns that a rapidly swelling bubble could be set to burst in spectacular fashion. After soaring more than 1,000 percent since the start of the year, bitcoin rose as much as 15 percent on Wednesday, but by mid-afternoon in New York, the virtual currency was trading at $9,500, down 3.7 percent on the day on Luxembourg-based Bitstamp BTC=BTSP, one of the largest and most liquid cryptocurrency exchanges. "As many seasoned traders know all too well, anything that rockets higher, tends to fall down faster when the time comes, and the time will come," James Hughes, chief market analyst at FX broker AxiTrader, said.

TONY'S METRO MAGIC 2017

Tony's METRO MAGIC

As we enter the season of giving, Metro asks that you donate to Tony's Metro Magic annual holiday toy drive to help underprivileged children in your community. You can donate by visiting metro.us/magic, clicking on the toy wish-list link of your choice, and ordering via a secure payment system. Toys will then be distributed to local children in need.

Holidays at Please Touch Museum

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December 9

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Chanukah Wonderland
December 13

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Kwanzaa
December 26

The party isn't over at Please Touch Museum! Unite and learn about Kwanzaa through music, art, dance, and celebration.

Winter Break Special Programming
December 23 - 24 & 27 - 30

Explore, create, and imagine! Stop-in daily for special education programs. **Museum closes at 3pm on 12/24*

Signature Event: Countdown 2 Noon - December 31

Celebrate New Year's Eve before nap time! Countdown 2 Noon is one of Please Touch Museum's most popular annual events. With live music, a countdown performance, and a traditional New Year's Eve ball drop, get into the party spirit and ring in the new year together! Ball drops at 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. **Museum Closes at 3pm*

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Children and parents biked down Spruce Street on Wednesday morning as 100 supporters stood to protect the bike lane where a cyclist was killed on Tuesday. COURTESY OF BICYCLE COALITION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Activists: Fatal Center City bike crash due to 'inaction'

Cyclists say more bike-lane upkeep and a protective barrier may have prevented woman's death.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The 24-year-old woman killed by a garbage truck while biking to work has been identified as Emily Fredricks, and bicycling advocates are saying her death was preventable.

"What happened here is a huge tragedy. … Someone died because of inaction," said Randy LoBasso, communications director for the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia (BCGP) and Metro's bike columnist. "The streets aren't safe enough."

Fredricks died after being struck around 7:30 a.m. Tuesday at 11th and Spruce streets when she collided with a private sanitation truck that was turning right onto 11th Street. The driver is reportedly cooperating with authorities and has not been identified or charged.

BCGP held a vigil Wednesday evening at the crash site in honor of Fredricks, followed up by a memorial ride. Earlier on Wednesday morning, some 100 bicyclists and supporters formed a human barrier on Spruce Street from 11th to 13th to protect the bike lane from passing cars.

Spruce Street in Center City has 10-foot bike lanes that were installed in 2009, with a 7-foot green bike lane and a 3-foot painted buffer.

"They've become some of the most used bike lanes in the city," LoBasso said. "But the lines have not been restriped in so long that they have basically faded down to nothing. Parts of the lane you can't see anymore."

LoBasso said the BCGP has called on the city to repaint all bike lanes before cold weather sets in this winter.

But the BCGP's push for "protected" bike lanes, which have permanent safety cones installed separating bike and car lanes, has made no progress on Spruce Street, where members of local neighborhood associations have raised multiple concerns about such a move's effect on traffic, LoBasso said. (A protected bike lane was recently installed on Chestnut Street in University City.)

"There were things that other cities have done that we have been calling on the city to do and should be in the city's Vision Zero action plan," LoBasso said, referring to the city's plan to reduce pedestrian fatalities to zero by 2030.

In an op-ed for Philly.com published Wednesday, Dena Driscoll, a co-chair of the 5th Square political action committee and family biking advocate, wrote that she has often observed "unsafe behavior" by drivers on the Spruce and Pine street bike lanes.

"Emily C. Fredricks' death is tragic, but it isn't surprising to safe streets advocates," Driscoll wrote. "Not enough has been done to keep these bike lanes safe, and someone was bound to get hurt."

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TAXES

Nearly half of Americans oppose Republican tax bill: New poll

Opposition has grown among Americans to a Republican tax plan before the U.S. Congress, with 49 percent of people who were aware of the measure saying they opposed it, up from 41 percent in October, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Wednesday.

Congressional Republicans are trying to rush their tax legislation to a vote on the Senate floor before the end of the week. President Donald Trump strongly backs the bill and wants to sign it into law before the end of the year.

In addition to the 49 percent who said they opposed the Republican tax bill, 29 percent said they supported it and 22 percent said they "don't know," according to the Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll of 1,257 adults.

When asked "who stands to benefit most" from the plan, more than half of all American adults surveyed selected either the wealthy or large U.S. corporations. Fourteen percent chose "all Americans," 6 percent picked the middle class and 2 percent chose lower-income Americans.

The tax bill being crafted in the Senate would slash the corporate tax rate, eliminate some taxes paid only by rich Americans and offer a mixed bag or temporary tax cuts for other individuals and families.

As congressional discussion on the bill has unfolded, public opposition to it has risen, on average, following Trump's unveiling of a nine-page "framework" on Sept. 27 that started the debate, Reuters/Ipsos polling showed.

The online poll has a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 3 percentage points. REUTERS

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More Americans are researching the shape of the Earth. GETTY IMAGES

Is the Earth flat? More and more Americans think so

Google searches for "flat Earth" are on the rise.

MICHAEL MARTIN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Sometime in the next few weeks, a California man named "Mad" Mike Hughes will launch himself 1,800 feet into the air for a mile-long ride in a homemade, steam-powered metal rocket. His goal: To prove the Earth is flat.

Wait, is the Earth flat?

If you thought that matter was settled some time ago by NASA, you're not alone. If you're convinced that the images of our spherical planet beamed down from space are an elaborate conspiracy, you're also not alone. Google searches for "flat earth" have more than tripled in the past two years, the Economist reported.

The flat-Earth movement is having a moment. On Nov. 9, 500 "flat Earthers" gathered in North Carolina for the Comic Con of conspiracy theories, the first annual Flat Earth International Convention. In September, Bobby Ray Simmons Jr., a.k.a. the rapper B.o.B, launched a crowdfunding campaign to send satellites into orbit to ascertain the Earth's shape.

"I don't believe in science," Hughes told the AP earlier this month. "I know about aerodynamics and fluid dynamics and how things move through the air, about the certain size of rocket nozzles, and thrust. But that's not science, that's just a formula. There's no difference between science and science fiction."

You could blame the cultural atmosphere of alternative facts that put a conspiracy theorist in the White House. "Conspiracy theories are appealing because they offer simple explanations for complex phenomena, or because they let people believe they are in possession of secret knowledge that the powerful wish to suppress," the Economist notes. "They tend to be most popular among less-educated people who do not trust public institutions. They are extremely common in dictatorships, where people assume, often correctly, that the authorities are lying."

British academic Ian Whitaker offers a simple test to put the matter to bed, which could save "Mad" Mike Hughes a spot of trouble. Compare shadows of sticks in the ground at different locations. In one spot where the sun is directly overhead, there will be no shadow. In a spot 500 miles north, for example, the stick will have a shadow. If the earth were flat, both sticks would have no shadow because they would be at the same angle toward the sun. That was good enough for the ancient Greeks, who used it to calculate the circumference of the earth with 90% accuracy in 250 B.C.

"Ultimately, arguing on the internet is not the best way forward for any scientific endeavor," says Whitaker. "We need to provide the means for people to test these theories themselves and to understand the results they get."`

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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

White House does not expect government shutdown

The White House said on Wednesday that it does not expect the government to shut down next month, but has contingency plans in place if the U.S. Congress fails to reach a deal on funding the government by a Dec. 8 deadline.

"We are not anticipating a shutdown. We think that we'll be able to work together. But the developments of the last 24 hours are discouraging," White House spokesman Raj Shah told reporters traveling with Trump.

Republicans control both chambers of the U.S. Congress, but their leaders will likely need to rely on at least some Democratic votes to pass the funding measure.

"There are always contingencies in place. We hope it doesn't get to that," Shah said.

Democratic leaders in Congress skipped a meeting with President Donald Trump on Tuesday that was expected to have been focused on the budget, raising the risk of a government shutdown next month with both sides far apart on the terms of an agreement.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi, the top Democrat in the House of Representatives, pulled out of the White House meeting because of a tweet that Trump sent earlier in the day attacking them as weak on illegal immigration and bent on raising taxes.

Democrats have said they will demand help for young people brought to the United States illegally as children as part of their price for providing votes on the budget measure. REUTERS

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SHOE CARNIVAL

Teen electrocution victim was a runaway atop train for unknown reason

Teen found on Regional Rail train was electrocuted by some 12,000 volts.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The charred body found atop a Regional Rail car last week was a 15-year-old teen who had run away from a foster home, SEPTA announced Wednesday.

Raekwon Jones, 15, was electrocuted on Thanksgiving night after climbing atop a SEPTA Regional Rail train in Suburban Station. His body was too burned to be recognized and was on top of the train until the beginning of rush hour when it was spotted by a passenger.

SEPTA police Chief Thomas Nestel III urged members of the public to never go on top of trains at a news conference on Wednesday. Regional Rail trains are powered by a current of some 12,000 volts.

SEPTA police Chief Thomas Nestel discussed the electrocution death of Raekwon Jones. SAM NEWHOUSE

"Some people think as long as you don't touch the wires, you'll be OK. That's not the case," Nestel said. "An electrical arc can occur, attracted to anything on your person, and cause serious injury. Don't go on top of the trains."

Nestel added that SEPTA is "sorry to say" that after being electrocuted, Jones' body was not spotted and removed from the top of a Chestnut Hill West train until six hours later.

SEPTA is in contact with Jones' mother and attorney at present. Jones had reportedly run away in September, and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children posted a missing flyer for Jones on Sept. 29.

Why Jones climbed on top of the train is not known. Speculation of subway surfing appears unlikely, since the train was out of service.

"He wouldn't have been surfing anywhere," Nestel said. "I don't know that we'll ever know why he was on top of that train."

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Crude details revealed in Matt Lauer sexual-harassment scandal

NBC fired the "Today" co-host after a female colleague came forward with claims of inappropriate behavior.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
@metromorgan
morgan@metro.us

Sex toys, exposed genitals, lewd texts and crude comments were part of former "Today" co-host Matt Lauer's harassment repertoire, according to a Variety exposé.

NBC fired Lauer Wednesday after a female colleague claimed he sexually harassed her for years, making him yet another rich and powerful man to be felled this year by accusations of harassment. His termination sent shockwaves through U.S. morning television, where Lauer has been a fixture since 1997, as of 2017 reportedly earning $25 million a year.

The complaint made by an unnamed female colleague Monday night was a "clear violation" by Lauer of the company's standards, NBC News Chairman Andrew Lack said in a statement.

"While it is the first complaint about his behavior in the over 20 years he's been at NBC News, we were also presented with reason to believe this may not have been an isolated incident," Lack said.

By the afternoon, more details of the 59-year-old's alleged misdeeds came to light.

Variety's report claimed Lauer, who is married with three children, sexually harassed multiple colleagues at NBC and gave one woman a sex toy as a gift along with an explicit note about how he wanted to use it on her. In another incident, Lauer allegedly summoned a woman to his office, then showed her his penis. He reprimanded her when she refused the advance, the report claimed.

Lauer allegedly grilled women about who they'd slept with, and asked male and female colleagues in the office to play the game "f-ck, marry or kill."

The exposé goes on to describe Lauer as a man obsessed with women's appearances and who would make lewd comments both in-person and over texts.

"He once made a suggestive reference to a colleague's performance in bed and compared it to how she was able to complete her job, according to witnesses to the exchange. For Lauer, work and sex were intertwined," the report said.

Two of the accusers told the magazine that Lauer had a button under his desk that allowed him to quickly lock the door from the inside, ensuring privacy for his alleged harassment.

As of deadline, Lauer had not commented on his firing or the sexual harassment claims.

Reuters contributed to this report.

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HR AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

Matt Lauer. Harvey Weinstein. Kevin Spacey. These are just a few men making headlines for having sexual-assault and sexual-harassment allegations brought against them in recent weeks, but we shouldn't be shocked to hear of such cases, especially those related to the workplace, as Lauer's reportedly was.

"It has created a moment in time where women can speak their truth. Women have been experiencing these things at work forever, and they finally feel there is enough critical mass for them to stand together," Jaime Klein, founder of New York-based Inspire Human Resources, told Metro Wednesday.

Metro reached out to Klein, whose 10-year-old company's wheelhouse includes HR consulting, training and programs to create a diverse and inclusive culture, to find out how these headlines are changing office cultures and HR practices.

"I really think HR can move the needle on making a safer space for women," she said. "It doesn't matter the venue or the ZIP code — women need to feel they can report what happened and have a safe space without retaliation."

Have clients reached out in the wake of all these allegations?

My inbox is blowing up. I've had senior leaders who are male say, "I want to make sure that I do a deeper look at my leadership team and ensure that nothing has happened that I am not aware of." The second round has been companies who have been identified and currently in the press about allegations, and we are starting to work with them on how to create a safer place for women at work and a better culture for everyone.

Were you surprised by that outreach?

I was not surprised. I was delighted that an underlying issue that has been in organizations

Here's how people reacted to the news about 'Today' host Matt Lauer

Matt Lauer was fired amid allegations of sexual harassment. GETTY IMAGES

On Wednesday morning, NBC announced that Matt Lauer, host of the "Today" show, had been fired after the network received a complaint about inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace.

Lauer's fall from his broadcast throne comes in the wake of multiple reports of and firings for sexual harassment and assault, including CBS anchor Charlie Rose, political journalist Mark Halperin, comedian Louis CK and film mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Lauer had been a figure at NBC for 20 years. While some people reacted to the news of his behavior with surprise, plenty of others alluded that this isn't out of left field. Here are some reactions from celebrities, fellow journalists and others.

Comedian Kathy Griffin said on Twitter that, "Matt Lauer has been on my list for a while. It's really too bad more Americans don't come to my shows. I pretty much recite the list in every show. Haha. I told you, my memory is long, my friends. I've been around a long time…"

Megyn Kelly, who joined NBC's "Today" earlier this year, addressed the news during her hour of the morning show.

Kelly said that she's known Lauer for a long time as a friend and a supportive arm as she's joined "Today." But Kelly is also someone who has talked about sexual harassment in the past and complained to her former employer Fox News about Bill O'Reilly's inappropriate behavior, and in speaking about Lauer, she quickly focused on his alleged victims.

"I see the anguish on my colleagues' faces. But when this happens, what we don't see is the pain on the faces of those who found the courage to come forward, and it is a terrifying thing to do," she said. "We don't see the career opportunities women lose because of sexual harassment or the intense stress it causes a women dealing with it when she comes to work each day."

President Donald Trump weighed in on the news as well, tweeting, "Wow, Matt Lauer was just fired from NBC for 'inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace.' But when will the top executives at NBC & Comcast be fired for putting out so much Fake News. Check out Andy Lack's past!"

That tweet spurred its own responses, with people pointing to allegations in Trump's own past and his support of embattled Senate candidate Roy Moore.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT

Jaime Klein, founder of New York-based Inspire Human Resources, weighs in on recent sexual harassment allegations in the media. INSPIRE HR

for decades is being addressed. I felt like it was overdue.

Men are also victims of harassment. Have you had outreach for those instances?
I have not had any requests from males, but I think that will come next.

Many people kind of look at HR as the enemy because they fear retaliation. What can workers do if they feel that way?
If they don't think they can go to HR, find someone who feels familiar that you can speak to or a mentor or leader that you can confide in.

What should HR departments do to ensure a haven for victims?
I really feel like HR is the first responder when someone comes forward, so the words and body language that HR uses shows how safe it is and should push the leadership team to do a full investigation. More and more people are going to be speaking out. It's so important for organizations to do a quick check in this moment to surface things before the press does. My rule of thumb is zero-tolerance; if it resurfaces, you part ways.

NIKKI M. MASCALI

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The truth behind what people are calling the Great Christmas Tree Shortage

The National Christmas Tree Association reports this could raise prices by 10 to 15 percent in some locations.

SAM BRODKSY
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Christmas trees may cost more this holiday season because of reasons related to the Great Recession. GETTY IMAGES

They're calling it "The Great Christmas Tree Shortage of 2017." It sounds scary, but truth be told, it may or may not affect you this year.

According to the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA), 25 million to 30 million of these holiday staples are sold in the U.S. annually. However, the national Christmas Tree Shortage may lead to a rise in prices between 10 to 15 percent. It is reportedly linked to the Great Recession our country faced nearly a decade ago, which caused farmers to limit their crops to save money.

NCTA spokesperson Doug Hundley told News12 that "in those years, we were in a recession and tree sales were down, prices were down, and we weren't planting as many trees." Given that they take about 10 years to grow to their Christmas-ready state of 7 to 8 feet, we're only now getting hit with the aftermath of smaller supply.

Hundley clarified to Metro that though the impact in any given area is hard to predict, states that have fewer Christmas tree farms are more vulnerable to a shortage.

Hundley assured Metro that the price difference is small. "It's like a $40 tree going up to a $45 tree," he said. In any case, he encourages the public to purchase their trees earlier in the season for the best selection.

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Study Coordinator: Carla Grabianowski, 215-707-1359

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Lung Center
TEMPLE HEALTH

Britain criticizes Trump for retweeting anti-Muslim videos from far-right party

Britain criticized President Donald Trump on Wednesday after he retweeted anti-Islam videos originally posted by a leader of a far-right British fringe party who was convicted earlier this month of abusing a Muslim woman.

The White House defended Trump's retweeting of the videos, as criticism poured in from U.S.-based Muslim advocacy groups and the Anti-Defamation League.

Jayda Fransen, deputy leader of the anti-immigration Britain First group, posted the videos which she said showed people who were Muslims beating a teenage boy to death, battering a boy on crutches and destroying a Christian statue.

Trump's decision to retweet the videos prompted criticism from both sides of the Atlantic, with some British lawmakers demanding an apology and U.S. Muslim groups saying it was

President Trump stirred controversy with his retweets. GETTY IMAGES

incendiary and reckless.

"It is wrong for the president to have done this," the spokesman for British Prime Minister Theresa May said. "Britain First seeks to divide communities through their use of hateful narratives which peddle lies and stoke tensions. They cause anxiety to law-abiding people."

Reuters was unable to immediately verify the videos and Fransen herself said they had come from various online sources which had been posted on her social media pages.

"What we saw today is one of many videos that is circulating on anti-Muslim hate websites," said Ilhan Cagri with the U.S.-based Muslim Public Affairs Council. "It is years-old and simply aims to breed fear for Muslims and Islam."

U.S. civil rights and Islamic organizations said the posts amounted to an incitement to violence against U.S. Muslims.

"These are actions one would expect to see on virulent anti-Muslim hate sites, not on the Twitter feed of the president of the United States," Nihad Awad, national executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said in a statement.

David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader, praised Trump.

"He's condemned for showing us what the fake news media won't," Duke wrote on Twitter. "Thank God for Trump! That's why we love him!" REUTERS

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DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Mo' money, mo' problems

Lyriq Bent isn't afraid of the truth. Here, the "She's Gotta Have It" actor talks gentrification, Spike Lee and why money can't fix racial inequality.

MATT PRIGGE

In this year's updated version of "She's Gotta Have It," Bent plays Jamie Overstreet, the richest — and most complicated — of Nola Darling's suitors. NETFLIX

When Spike Lee's debut feature "She's Gotta Have It" came out in 1986, Lyriq Bent was 7 years old. And the 38-year-old actor didn't see it until he got the job co-starring in Lee's updated TV version.

In the 2017 "She's Gotta Have It," which premiered on Netflix last week, we get updated versions of all the old characters, first and foremost hero Nola Darling (DeWanda Wise), a free-spirited young Fort Greene resident currently dating three men. One of them is Bent's Jamie Overstreet, her richest and most chivalrous beau — a successful businessman with a family who learns that his upscale life in Brooklyn Heights doesn't protect him from the world's ills.

We chatted with the Toronto native about gentrification, the checks and balances of being black in America and the truth about Spike Lee.

Watching the original "She's Gotta Have It," from 1986, and the new show must be surprising. You see how much Brooklyn has changed, but we're still talking about many of the same issues.

A lot of it is still taboo, a lot of it is still relevant. You see how little has moved forward. The problem or issues we had 30 years ago we're still dealing with now. We have to ask ourselves why there's been so little movement.

The men in "She's Gotta Have It" can be foolish. Even the best of the three can be too possessive with Nola.

These men tend to behave in a way they think women want them to behave, as opposed to just being themselves and treating women the way they feel they should be treated. But it's not just men. A lot of people behave based on what's around them as opposed to who they are. Women try to be something society tells them to be, and men are telling them what we think we want them to be.

It's a weird cycle. I don't know how we break it, but shows like this definitely provoke thought and make us think about how we view each other.

One of the main ideas on the show is gentrification, but you see how older residents try to make it work with their newer, richer and often whiter neighbors. They try to engage them, try to get everyone to work together to make everything better.

It takes an actual community — the whole village mentality. We're still not there yet, where communities can band together to create real change. We're still waiting for congressmen and –women to do these things for us. But politically it's not in their interest in some cases. So we're constantly left in a state of despair, thinking, 'When are we going to be thrown a bone?' These days someone's not going to ride in on that white horse and save us from our problems. We still need to come together as a community.

Jamie is the richest of the characters, and it seems like he assumed being wealthy would inculcate him from racial problems. They don't, and you see him grappling with that, even having a talk with his son about how being black in America means having what he calls a "double consciousness."

Money doesn't fix your problems, especially when they're racial issues. If you have money and live in a certain zip code, it doesn't mean that you aren't of a certain ethnicity. If you're living in a neighborhood where you're the only person like that, you're going to be seen as that, no matter how much money you have. When you step out of your lane, they're going to let you know.

GETTY

Jamie has to realize that he needs to fix himself, so that he's thinking properly, so that he's woke, so he's not asleep, thinking that money makes him better than the next person beside him. Because it doesn't.

Spike Lee is a very opinionated person, but he's also very open to others' voices. He could have portrayed Jamie as evil, but he clearly has a lot of empathy for his plight.

Spike is a person who's feared by many in our industry, because they think he's "opinionated" or "strong-willed." I disagree with all of that. I think the man is very honest with who he is and what he sees around him and what is happening.

The moment you point your finger at the truth, you're a problem. People don't want you to be a whistle-blower, because then you become a problem. Well, the real problem is injustice, the real problem is racism and sexism. There are people who don't want to lose the control or the power or the money, whatever it is they're fighting for. They're living a lie because they're getting by; they're living life and making money, so don't shake the tree. And Spike's not that dude.

I like folks like that. I like people who have their own opinions, have their own minds and are willing to say, "I'd rather die free than live as a slave."

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The highly favored brothers Franco

How the star siblings brought "The Disaster Artist" to the big screen.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
@MetroPhilly
gregory.wakeman@metro.us

Actors James and Dave Franco feel very lucky to have made "The Disaster Artist." Especially because they did so alongside their closest friends — not to mention family. Lest we forget, they are brothers too.

"It was surreal in a sense because we felt like we got away with murder just by being allowed to make this movie," Dave, 32, explains over the phone. "Most people in the world haven't heard of 'The Room.'

"At one point, someone on set tapped me, and said, 'You realize you are making a movie with your brother and your wife and some of your best friends?' It was one of those moments where I took a step back and realized this was a special scenario."

The brothers Franco star in the film, an adaptation of Greg Sestero's memoir on the making of Tommy Wiseau's bizarre "The Room" — James as Wiseau, and Dave as Sestero himself. And although James recalls his first introduction to the film was quite, well, bizarre (courtesy of a billboard Wiseau paid to keep up between 2003 and 2008), it eventually piqued his interest when he read "The Disaster Artist."

James and Dave star as Tommy Wiseau and Greg Sistero, respectively, in the comedy-drama. A24

GETTY IMAGES

"Someone said, 'This looks like something you'd like.' It was an incredible story of oddballs and outsiders. I was very moved. I could relate."

And while the 39-year-old is the first to admit that "The Room" is technically a bad film, he insists that the sense of joy it provides to its audience shouldn't be dismissed.

"One of the things we examine in our movie is 'The Room,' by most standards would be considered a bad movie," James says. "But the sum of its parts and the sum of the experience is something that people are obviously getting something from. It makes you sort of question what we call a successful movie."

"We have both seen 'The Room' more times than any other movie in existence," Dave adds. "And there is something to be said about that. If a movie is that watchable, when can we just start calling it a good movie?"

"The Disaster Artist" is certainly just that, and audiences will be able to revel in its quality when it is released in New York on Dec. 1, before it extends across the rest of the United States on Dec. 8.

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH CHRISTMAS VILLAGE IN PHILADELPHIA

Metro's gift guide for every budget

We know everyone on your list's been naughty, so decide how nice you'll be based on your bank account. 'Tis the season to give. And give. And give. Each year the list gets longer, as do the special requests and circumstances. So we've scoured the cybershelves to find personalized treats that'll bring a smile to anyone's face. No need for gift receipts this year!

JOSHUA CROUTHAMEL

YOUR HOMETOWN-PROUD BUDDY

Making it back to Mom and Dad's is tricky, and expensive, but they say "there's no place like home for the holidays." So how about a gift that brings home to wherever you are today?

ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Homesick candles
Every state has a signature smell, whether it's the official flower or a breeze off the sea/fields/mountains. What's yours?
$29.95 on HomesickCandles.com

Under $50

Hometown puzzles
If your gift-ee can't stop talking about how great their neighborhood is (or they're a total geography monster with deep local roots), get a customized puzzle made of their town, borough or city.
From $39.49 on AnyDate.com

YOUR FRIENDS WITH KIDS

If you don't have children of your own it's often hard to tell what works for little ones. These options will please all sorts of ankle biters.

Personalized aprons and chef's hats
Though you may still count licking the bowl as "helping in the kitchen," kids these days are almost universally Master Chefs. Feed their kitchen creativity.
From around $15 on Etsy.com

Seafood snuggie
Perfect for couch cuddles and bedtime books, this blanket will make your nieces or nephews literal shark bait.
$34.95 on BlankieTails.com

YOUR TECH-OBSESSED FRIEND

$50-$100

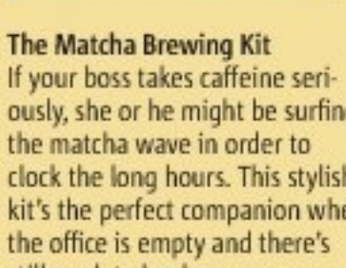
It can be hard to shop for the person who's obsessed with the latest gadget … mostly because they tend to have what you've not even heard of yet. Here are a couple of items that may have flown under their radar.

Super Nintendo Classic
If they were gaming in the '90s but come home to a flat-screen today, you'll blow their minds with this bit of old-school tech.
$79.99 on Nintendo.com

JBL Flip 4
Portable Bluetooth speakers with amazing sound aren't all that new, but ones that are completely waterproof make daily showers as enjoyable as beach breaks.
$99.95 on JBL.com

YOUR BOSS

The person who pays your salary may not be expecting a present, but if you plan on asking for a raise or more time off in 2018, one might be a good idea to grease those wheels in advance.



Tree of Light
This superstylish lamp works on a desk or a nightstand, wirelessly charges Qi-enabled phones and has a Bluetooth speaker built in.
$94.99 on TouchOfModern.com

The Matcha Brewing Kit
If your boss takes caffeine seriously, she or he might be surfing the matcha wave in order to clock the long hours. This stylish kit's the perfect companion when the office is empty and there's still work to be done.
$69 on FreePeople.com

YOUR JET-SETTER

For every weekend in the country you count as a vacation, this frequent flier has a weekend in an altogether foreign country. What works for a world traveler? These awesome items, that's what.

Away carry-on
This is the coolest piece of luggage on the market, as it holds everything you need, as well as charges for all of your devices. Power up during wheels-up!
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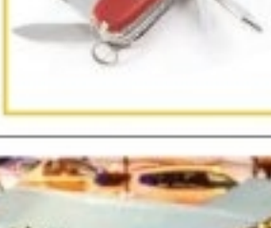

Victorinox accessory
There are your run-of-the-mill pocket tools, and then there's the brand of Swiss Army knives actually used by astronauts on the International Space Station. You want the latter. *From around $100 to $400 on SwissArmy.com*

Big Spender

YOUR FAVORITE FAMILY

Let's be honest — there's no such thing as peace and quiet when you're responsible for keeping another human alive. Treat a hard-working parent to a rare bit of bliss with one of these gifts.

Aibnb
If your friends have kids, your friends probably don't get out much. Treat them to a night's staycation in a pimped-out pad not far from home for a change of scenery.
Nice, private urban escapes from around $200 on Airbnb.com

Handy cleaners
Give a bud a break from dusting and laundry, mopping and dishes, and instead outsource to a pro. Handy has a network of qualified house cleaners that cater to most budgets.
From around $60 an hour on Handy.com

Gifts for *the makers*

If you're lucky, you've got a food-obsessed person in your life, always cooking and hosting dinners. We've got some gift ideas they're sure to eat up. **EVA KIS**

Everything Bagel & Cream Cheese Kit

Make New York City's signature breakfast food with this kit from FarmSteady, the home of DIY food projects from the crew behind Brooklyn Brew Shop. Inside this box is everything you need to make a dozen everything bagels and your own cultured cream cheese. So, brunch at your place? *$25, farmsteady.com*

Hario Glass Pourover Coffee Maker

The pour-over method has taken over at better coffee shops, and it's time to see what a difference the technique can make in your cup at home. This Japanese version is made with tempered glass for beauty and no funky plastic tang. *$18, whisknyc.com*

Marcelli Olive Wood Large Bread Board

The Italian cheesemakers and crafters at Marcelli Formaggi use traditional methods to make 13 kinds of cheese in the tiny village of Abruzzo. Serve your favorites on their gorgeous hand-crafted board made of olive wood.
$65, marcelliformaggi.com

Mellow Sous Vide Machine

Sous vide (cooking food inside a bag immersed in water) is the latest professional chef trick gone mainstream. Mellow is a smartphone-controlled sous vide machine with one big difference: It will refrigerate your food until it's time for that perfectly cooked meal.
$349, cookmellow.com

America: The Cookbook

Eating your way across America is the road trip we all aspire to take. Until then, Phaidon's massive new cookbook collects 800 recipes for your kitchen from all 50 states, with each getting a deep dive by the famous food personalities and chefs who know it best.
$49.95, phaidon.com

These chocolates are almost too beautiful to eat! JASON VARNEY

The sports fan in your life needs this. PROVIDED

Deck the walls with City Line Drawings. PROVIDED

Made with brotherly (and sisterly) love

Philadelphia gifts for your holiday shopping list.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
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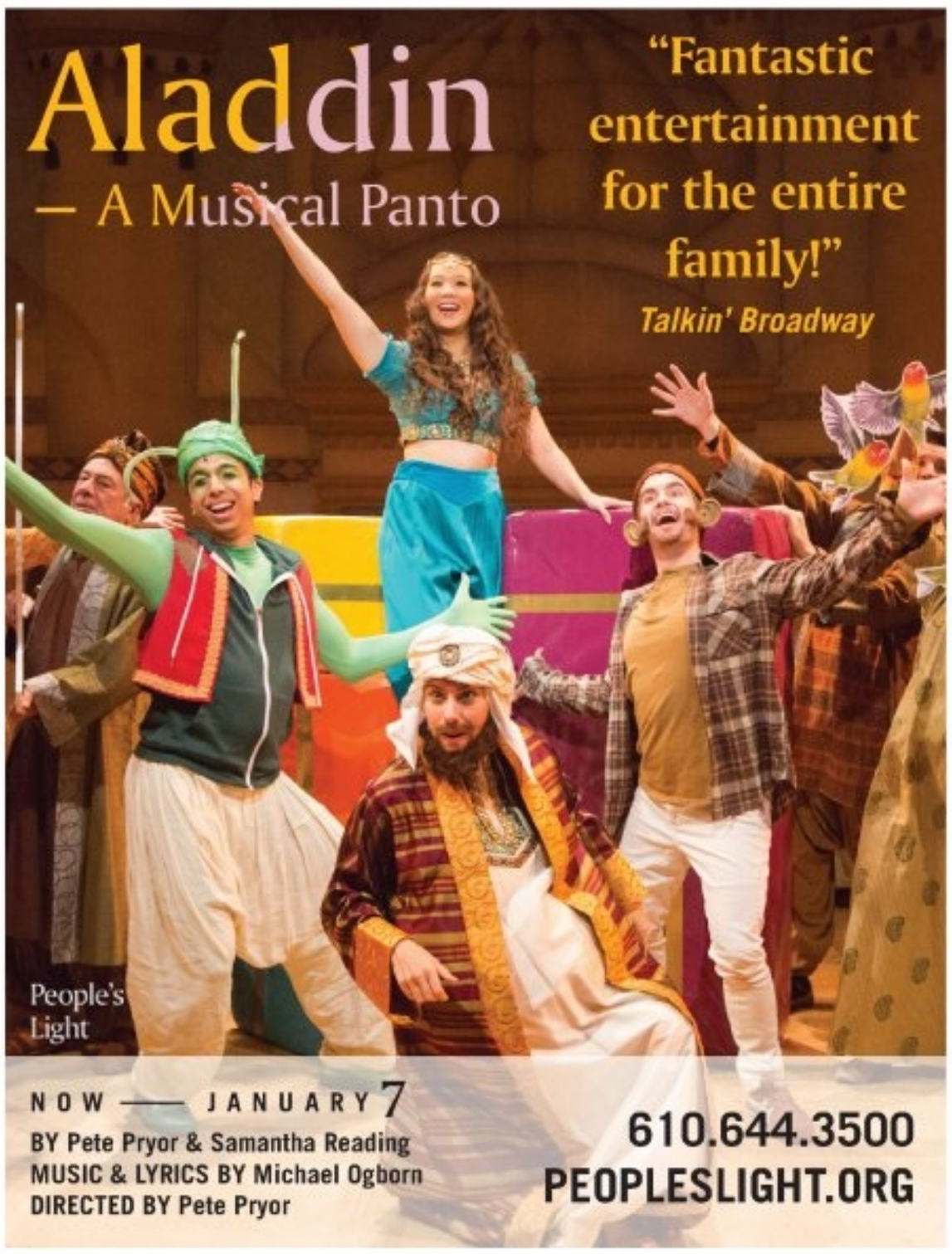
Christmas is less than a month away and you've probably already started thinking about what to buy the special people in your life. But before you do all of your shopping online, why not put a little extra love into the holidays this year by shopping local? The city is chock full of local businesses that have unique gifts that are made right here. From artisan chocolates to sketches of iconic places to one-of-a-kind jewelry, you can easily find something for everyone on your list.

City Line Drawings
facebook.com/citylinedrawings
Local artist Michael Mastroianni only recently launched City Line Drawings, but it's already making a big impression. His sketches of Philadelphia include landmarks like Independence Hall and the Friendship Gate in addition to educational institutions like Drexel University and Penn College. What's more, 10% of pre-net sales benefit hurricane relief in Puerto Rico.

Marcie Blaine Chocolate
marcieblaine.com
Chef Marcie Turney's line of artisan chocolates are the perfect gift for the discerning chocoholic. Ingredients are sourced locally, and the chocolates are made by hand in the back of her boutique, Verde (108 S. 13th St.) You can purchase them online or in-person. If you want to add a little more Philly to this sweet gift, be sure to add the Philadelphia series pieces, which include Love Park (raspberry ganache), Liberty Bell (70% cacao and vanilla bean), Soft Pretzel (peanut butter pretzel ganache) and Philly Skyline (crispy hazelnut, milk chocolate praline). Yum!

Shibe Vintage Sports
shibevintagesports.com
There's never been a better time to be a sports fan in Philadelphia, and if you're looking for a special gift for the sports fanatic in your life, check out Shibe Vintage Sports (137 S. 13th St.) in person or online.

Jessica Joy London
Jewelry
jjlstudios.com
If you're looking for jewelry that really makes a statement, definitely check out Jessica Joy London's bold line of earrings and more. The designer is an artist-in-residence at the Philadelphia Fashion Incubator, and you can peruse some of her offerings in person at Old City boutique shop, Scarlett Alley (241 Race St.). We can't get enough of the red aerial earrings ($52).



PECO Winterfest Tree Lighting

Winterfest is in full swing at the Delaware River Waterfront's RiverRink, with Friday marking the unveiling and lighting of the holiday tree—which promises to be brighter than ever. The event is marked by a performance from Chante Moore, who will sing classics and originals from her new album, "Christmas Back to You." Various skaters and dancers are also scheduled to perform, with a life-size snow globe around for selfies.

Dec. 1, 1 p.m.
Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest
Walnut Street and Columbus Boulevard
delawareriverwaterfront.com, Free

things to do

Holiday Sing-Along on the Boardwalk

Santa and his choir take to the boardwalk for a singalong, also featuring homemade chocolates from Olon, cookies from Mrs. Field and complimentary Garces coffee. This is in tandem with Tropicana's one-hour Holiday Jubilee multimedia light and sound show in the Tropicana Showroom, brought to life by nine dancers, two singers and two specialty acts.

Dec. 2, 7 p.m., The Tropicana
2831 Boardwalk, Atlantic City
tropicana.net, $25

HOLIDAYS

Old City Tree Lighting and Kick-Off to Historic Holiday Nights

Fifty boutiques, shops, galleries and restaurants in Old City participate in a weekly discount program on Thursdays through Dec. 28. This week, the neighborhood kicks off the event series with its first tree-lighting ceremony, featuring a performance from the Philadelphia Youth Ballet dancing to songs from "The Nutcracker."

Pop by the Center for Art in Wood for ornament crafting and hot cider—with cookies.

Nov. 30, 5 p.m.
Betsy Ross House
239 Arch St., oldcitydistrict.org
Pay as you go

Christmas Kids' Spectacular Orchestra

Aram Demirjian conducts this annual, kid-conducive take on "The Nutcracker" and other all-ages holiday classics, courtesy of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Come prepared for a special appearance from St. Nick.

Dec. 2, 11:30 a.m.
Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center
300 S. Broad St.
philorch.org, $24

Tinseltown Tidings

The Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus is well-known for its exceptional, cohesive choral concerts during the holidays each year—and this year is no different. This year, the chorus takes on a Hollywood theme, performing numbers from classics like "The Polar Express" and "White Christmas."

Through Dec. 2
The Prince Theater
1412 Chestnut St.
princetheater.org, $22

Merry, Merry Happy Hours

A new seasonal happy hour, "Merry, Merry Happy Hour" features drink specials at a new location each Thursday through Christmas. Up first is Liberte Lounge at the Sofitel Philadelphia, with a $7 cocktail concoction like a Peppermint Martini, $5 beers and $7 wines—plus, appetizer specials.

Through Dec. 28, 5 p.m.
Liberte Lounge
17th and Sansom streets
sofitel-philadelphia.com,
Pay as you go

East Passyunk Tree Lighting

The avenue's holiday tree comes alive at the Singing Fountain, in tandem with performances from the children's choirs of Alphabet Academy and the Andrew Jackson School. Light sips and samples—hot cider from Rival Bros., tomato basil soup from Fuel and cookies from Passyunk Avenue Revitalization Corporation—are available on-site.

Nov. 30, 5 p.m.
1904 E. Passyunk Ave.
visiteastpassyunk.com, Free

South Street Tree Lighting

Santa rolls into the neighborhood on a fire truck for meet and greets as CBS 3 joins in to countdown to the annual tree lighting. The event doubles as a toy drive; guests are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy, or donate $10 by texting JOY to 41444.

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Dec. 3, 4 p.m.
Headhouse Square
200 Pine St.
southstreet.com, Pay as you go

THEATER

Upright Citizens Brigade Improv

Four improv artists, as part of the Amy Poehler-cofounded Upright Citizens Brigade, first create scenes whipped up from audiences interviews, then take an audience-suggested single word and develop it into a unique performance. Ninety minutes of unscripted silliness, this comedy act is sketch comedy at its best.
Suzanne Roberts Theatre
480 S. Broad St.
philatheatreco.org, $25

MUSIC

A. Savage

Savage turns diarist with his latest release, "Thawing Dawn," fusing a singer-songwriter acoustic sound with a Texas twang. Savage is also known as the frontman of rock group Parquet Courts.
Nov. 30, 8:30 p.m.
PhilaMOCA
531 N. 12th St.,
philamoca.org, $14

HOLIDAYS

PROVIDED

Ardmore Cricket Cringle

The annual open-air marketplace—sprawling, with 40 merchants--returns with an abbreviated performance of "The Nutcracker," vendors with housewares, jewelry, apparel and more, as well as 15 food trucks with seasonal delights like mulled wine and roasted chestnuts. Reusable shopping totes will be handed out at the event.
Dec. 1, 5 p.m.; Dec. 2, 10 a.m.
Cricket Avenue, Ardmore
cricketavenue.com, Pay as you go

Friday Night Band Jam at Michener

Latin party band De Tierra Caliente comes to the Michener Art Museum to energize crowds with sounds of the Caribbean, with a multilanguage set performed in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Galleries will remain open from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Dec. 1, 8 p.m.
Michener Art Museum
138 S. Pine St.
michenerartmuseum.org, $25

Gin Blossoms

Best known for the hit rock song "Hey Jealousy," Gin Blossoms has broken up and reunited several times in its 30-year run—but is currently on-again with lead singer Robin Wilson.
Dec. 1, 9 p.m.
The Borgata Music Box
1 Borgata Way, Atlantic City
theborgata.com, $39

ARTS

Amber Art & Design

Amber Art and Design's Keir Johnston and Ernel Martinez, two international artists based in Philadelphia, curate a showcase as part of Moore's "Bodyworks" exhibition. **Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m.**
Moore College of Art & Design
20th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway
moore.edu, Free

COMEDY

The Lucas Bros.

Keith and Kenny Lucas riff off one another for a knee-slapping standup act. Netflix bingers may recognize them from their comedy special "The Lucas Bros: On Drugs," or their guest appearance in the comedy series Lady Dynamite.
Through Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Helium Comedy Club
2031 Sansom St.
philadelphia.heliumcomedy.com, $22

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Fodor's Travel

Magee Homestead

Adventurers and explorers will relish the wide-open expanse at Magee Homestead in Saratoga, Wyoming. There's so much to do here, from shooting and archery to horseback riding and an aerial-ropes course. Of course, there's nothing wrong with simply relaxing poolside after a spa treatment. The spa uses herbs grown in the ranch's new greenhouse (the largest in Wyoming) in herbal compresses, and much of the produce is used in the kitchen. The ranch even has its own herd of Akaushi Japanese Wagyu cattle, and the burgers and steak are truly some of the best in the country. With just nine cabins, you'll often feel like you have the whole place to yourself.

The Point

The 11 cabins that make up The Point on Saranac Lake, New York, were formerly William Avery Rockefeller's summer home back in the Gilded Age. Here, everything from menus to activities is entirely customized, so you can simply wake up and do whatever you feel like doing. They'll set up lunch for you in the woods if you'd like to go hiking, or take one of the Budsin Wood Craft lightning bug boats out for a picnic cruise. Dinner is served at 8 p.m., bringing everyone together for a four-course feast after a casual cocktail hour, but you can always dine in the privacy of your room too. There's no WiFi, so go forest bathing or work on an impossible jigsaw puzzle by the fireplace.

Hotel Wailea

Wailea is perhaps the most popular beach in Maui, but Hotel Wailea is the only adults-only option around, ideal for intimate romance away from the larger, more crowded beachfront properties. Hawaii's only Relais & Chateaux property offers 72 one-bedroom suites, all with private ocean-facing lanais. Guests can take complimentary aerial yoga classes, go canoeing, or learn to kiteboard–the hotel has its own kiteboarding academy.

INSIDER TIP: From December through April, you'll likely spot whales during a sunset sail.

Cal-a-Vie

Come to Cal-a-Vie for a generous dose of Southern Californian healthy living. This health spa doesn't feel restrictive but rather nourishes the body, spirit, and mind with nutritious food, breathtaking hikes, and fun exercise options from cardio kickboxing to Zumba and water volleyball. Sign up for a three-night, four-night, or weeklong program to recharge your batteries and take care of yourself. Spa treatments are included with all packages, so soothe sore muscles and relax after a vigorous workout.

Villa Buena Onda

It's hard to believe the tranquility at Villa Buena Onda, just 20 minutes from Liberia International Airport in Costa Rica. The two-tier pool, spa, and ocean-facing yoga deck are just a few of the relaxing amenities, and toiletries in the eight rooms are made locally by Raw Botanicals. You're close enough to walk into Playas del Coco, a charming and tourist-friendly fishing village, although it's tempting to spend all day at the members-only beach club. Costa Rica is famous for its array of flora and fauna, and you'll spot lush plants, monkeys and birds while strolling the property's tropical dry forest grounds.

Rancho Pescadero

Todos Santos is known as Mexico's artist enclave, the Tulum to Cabo's Cancun. Rancho Pescadero embraces the ethos of relaxed luxury on 15 acres of private beach beneath the Sierra Laguna mountains. There's surfing, fishing, and the opportunity to swim with whale sharks in the summer. Culinary connoisseurs can enjoy mixology classes or stroll through the garden with chef César Pita before preparing lunch with the best Baja ingredients. The resort often hosts guest chefs for special weekends and there are arts, music and film festivals in Todos Santos throughout the year.

Monastero Santa Rosa

At Monastero Santa Rosa on the Amalfi Coast of Italy, a cliffside 17th-century convent has been turned into a secluded 20-room luxury resort overlooking the Bay of Salerno. The full-service spa is impressive for such a small property, and canopied daybeds entice guests to curl up with a lover or a good book. Terraced organic gardens provide herbs and vegetables for the on-site Ristorante il Refettorio.

Spicers Sangoma Retreat

"Sangoma" is the Zulu word for healer, and this eco-certified retreat with just eight suites is the kind of place that will heal your soul. Bathtubs at Spicers Sangoma Retreat have sunset bush views, as does the infinity lap pool. Go on a night time nature walk to spot wildlife in the foothills of Australia's Blue Mountains. Leave the blinds open and wake up to the golden sunrise before a refreshing rinse in the outdoor shower. Lazily falling back to sleep in the plush oversized king bed is perfectly acceptable, too.

Monastero Santa Rosa is an intimate getaway with just 20 rooms. PROVIDED

Get cozy on Saranac Lake at The Point. PROVIDED

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Ron Hextall is peculiarly optimistic during lowly Flyers recent dark days

The Flyers' GM still thinks the Flyers are a playoff team.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
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The Flyers lost their ninth straight game on Tuesday to the San Jose Sharks, which is their longest streak in nine years.

During the game, a 3-1 affair that was one of the team's worst performances of the season, fans repeatedly and loudly called for coach Dave Hakstol to be fired.

Then, following the game the captain Claude Giroux called for a closed-door meeting to air things out. Yes, it was indeed one of the darkest moments in recent Flyers' history.

Despite the bleak current climate, general manager Ron Hextall is concerned but not alarmed.

"If you look at the way we've played from the start of the year, I'm pretty good with the way our team has played – and pretty good with the way our team has played the last nine games," he said in the team's locker room on Tuesday night. "I think tonight we ran out of energy. Obviously, results lately are not very good. We deserve better, but we haven't gotten better [results]. Obviously, we gotta find a way."

It wasn't a ringing endorsement of Hakstol, but his comment sure made it sound like he has been mostly pleased overall with the direction of the team under the head coach this season.

The one outlier during the losing streak, and one Hextall is likely hanging his hat on, is the team has played well enough to win a majority of the games. They have lost four in regulation but five have come in overtime or a shootout. And in four of the last seven games, they held a two-goal lead in the third period.

"If we were playing poorly I would be the first to say we were playing poorly," Hextall said. "We are not playing poorly. To look objectively at our team right now and say, 'Are we playing poorly?' No. 'Are we shooting ourselves in the foot at times?' Yes, we are. '[Committing] critical mistakes at critical times?' Yes."

Hakstol heard the fans and understands their frustration.

"Nobody said this was going to be easy," the third-year coach said. "You better be able to stand up and handle that."

Hextall also maintained his stance from before the season that his club is a playoff team. Entering Wednesday night's game, the Flyers (8-10-7, 23 points) were in last place in the Metropolitan Division and six points out of the last wild card spot.

"We're doing a lot of good things," Hextall said. "Again, tonight I don't think was our best game. … We gotta stick with it and stick together. We gotta win Saturday [against the Bruins]."

And shed even a small glimmer of light back on a franchise that is stuck in the abyss.

The Flyers will try and break their losing streak Saturday, at home against the Bruins. GETTY IMAGES

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Flyers have found nearly every way to lose amid current ugly skid

The Flyers found themselves in an unfamiliar position at the start of the third period on Tuesday against the San Jose Sharks.

They trailed by two goals.

In four of their last six games, the Flyers had led by a pair of goals to either begin the final period or during it. However, in each of those contests, they failed to protect the lead and either lost in overtime, a shootout or regulation.

The Sharks, on the other hand, put on a clinic and showed the Flyers how to play with, and maintain, a two-goal lead over the final 20 minutes of a hockey game. They were disciplined with the puck, remained aggressive on the offensive end, limited the Flyers to just five shots, stayed out of the penalty box and ultimately sent them to their ninth straight loss.

Despite their recent difficulties, Philadelphia is still in the Wild Card hunt. GETTY IMAGES

The winless skid (0-4-5) is the longest in franchise history since 2008. The Flyers, who last won on Nov. 1 against the Blackhawks, are buried in the Metropolitan Division basement and quickly watching their season fall apart. They are mercifully off until Saturday, when the Bruins come to the Wells Fargo Center.

"This is pretty tough," defenseman Andrew MacDonald Tuesday. "I mean, tonight was one of those ones where nothing was going right. We couldn't generate anything. Sloppy play. Certainly not a game we are proud of. Tough one to put our name on."

Most, if not all, of the nine losses fall in that category, though. Throughout the losing streak, the Flyers have found every which way to lose. They've wasted leads, taken careless penalties, had defensive breakdowns and been outplayed.

The ugly atmosphere wasn't just limited to the ice, either. Fans spent the final half of the game either booing the Flyers, calling for the coach to be fired or practicing their chants for the football team that plays across the street and is riding a nine-game winning streak.

Following the game, the players held a closed-door meeting. Alternate captain Wayne Simmonds said it was due to the entire losing streak and not just because of the lifeless effort on home ice against the Sharks.

"It's not this one. It's all nine. It's a cumulative thing," he said. "We have had leads, we have had chances to win in overtime and shootouts — whatever it may be and we haven't done it. I know it's unacceptable. This isn't right."

The coach, who heard the fans demanding for his removal, is confident in the make-up of the team and its will to turn things around.

"I believe we have the group in the locker room that collectively is mentally tough enough to show up and go back to work and dig our way out of this," Hakstol said.

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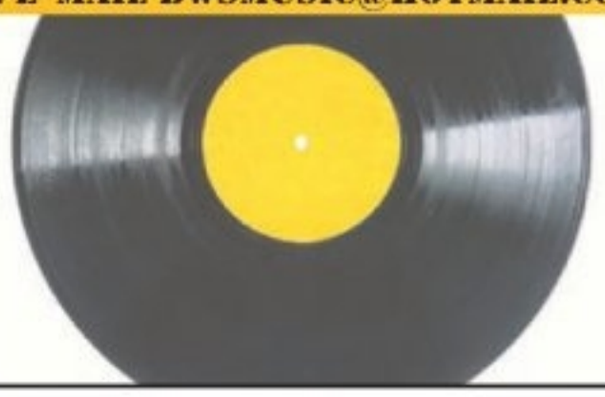

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LEGAL NOTICES

City of Philadelphia Public Hearing Notice

The **Committee on Appropriations** of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, December 6, 2017**, at **2:00 PM**, in **Room 400**, **City Hall**, to hear testimony on the following items:

170957 An Ordinance authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2017 from the General Fund from certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, the Water Fund from certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, the Grants Revenue Fund certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, and the Aviation Fund certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, to the General Fund to certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, the Water Fund to certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, the Grants Revenue Fund to certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, and the Aviation Fund to certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions.

170958 An Ordinance authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2018 from the General Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, the Grants Revenue Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions to the General Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, the Water Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, and the Aviation Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed items.

Copies of the foregoing items are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

Michael Decker
Chief Clerk

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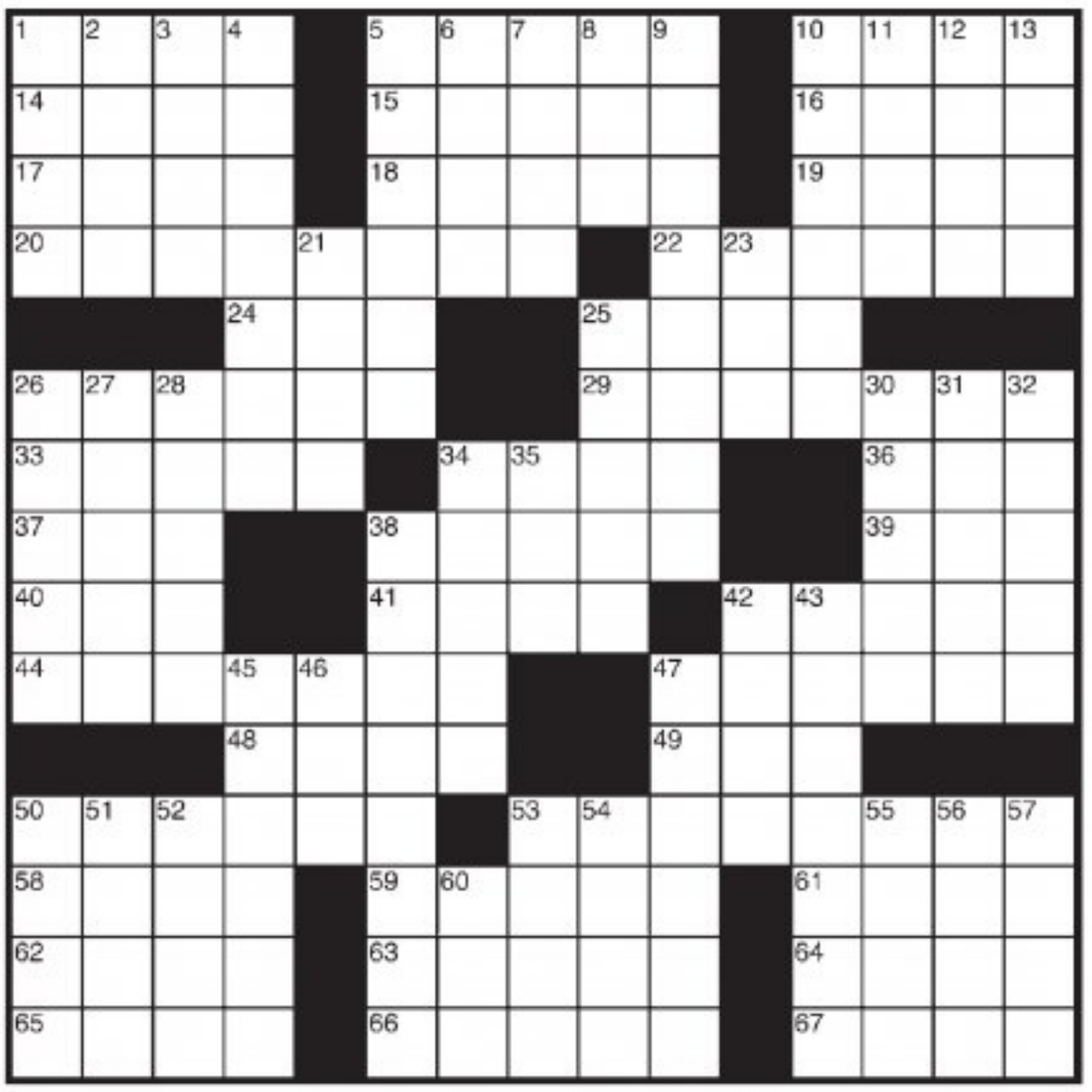
Across
1 Insignificant
5 Music genre
10 Mountains in Europe
14 Mouse target?
15 Truck, in London
16 Vault
17 Caked-on dirt
18 Beeper
19 Formerly
20 Pertaining to fall
22 Striped
24 Sinbad's transport
25 Tosses
26 Rubber boot
29 Loser (hyph.)
33 Not quite right
34 Big Foot cousin
36 Tribute in verse
37 Coal measure
38 Mr. Goldfinger
39 Pile of hay in a barn
40 Sitcom planet
41 Examine
42 Blaze up
44 Update inventory
47 Hot dog
48 Twisted
49 Physics unit
50 Grads
53 Airs out
58 Medieval weapon
59 Divulged
61 October's stone
62 Disagreeable person
63 Make glad
64 Ms. McEntire
65 Wait
66 Positioned
67 Wren's residence

Down
1 Transparent mineral
2 Linen color
3 Send packing
4 Motorcycle races
5 Turn pale
6 Entertainer -- Falana
7 Europe-Asia range
8 Use poor judgment
9 Standing for
10 Maria Conchita --
11 Furnish
12 Rate of speed
13 Rushed
21 Fallen log coverer
23 Crunch targets
25 Caesar's tongue
26 Gainesville fan
27 Love in Italy
28 Bits of chain
30 Hannibal's foe
31 Put on a pedestal
32 More innovative
34 Disgusting
35 Time span
38 Gives credit
42 Flat-needled trees
43 Straw hat
45 Obediently
46 Purchase
47 Used a hoe
50 Rock-concert need
51 Milk, to Yves
52 Stanford rival
53 Toga bash venue
54 Nerve network
55 Pentathlon item
56 Seizes
57 Bed support
60 Boxer who "stung like a bee"



metro.us/sudoku

easy

	5		1	8	4	6		
8				6		4	2	1
	6							9
4		9						
	2			9			1	
						9		8
5							8	
3	4	1		7				2
		6	5	3	9		7	

hard

				4		2	8	
	9	4	5				7	
			7		3		9	1
		1					3	
		7	2		4	8		
	2					7		
7	4		1		6			
	1				5	9	4	
	3	5		8				

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries You are in the zone and prepared to take on any task you face. Speed up and take matters into your own hands. Become the powerhouse required to meet demands.

Taurus Treat superiors with respect, and have patience when dealing with bureaucracy. Explosive situations will only turn in your favor if they are controlled properly.

Gemini Refuse to let anger take charge if you don't like what someone does or says. Keep the peace, but offer wisdom and solutions that will make a difference.

Cancer Don't bend to whatever whim moves a certain someone. Say no and spare yourself the stress of having to wiggle your way out of something you don't want to do.

Leo Refuse to let emotions or pride stand in your way. If you accept the inevitable, you will be able to turn it into a positive with a little ingenuity.

Virgo Get into the mood when it comes to networking events or educational pursuits. How you present who you are and what you have to offer will determine your success.

Libra Positive change is highlighted. Don't be afraid to follow your gut feeling and do what's best for you. A business trip, meeting or educational pursuit is favored.

Scorpio Dealing with institutions and government agencies will be taxing but worth your while if you can take advantage of a loophole, rebate or settlement.

Sagittarius A positive change to your current living arrangements will encourage you to spend more time with someone special. Channel your energy into what makes you happy.

Capricorn Don't get flustered if you are dealing with a superior, institution or government agent. Stay focused on what you can get done, not on what stands in your way.

Aquarius Favors can be called in, and doing something that you've always wanted to do will now be an option. Don't procrastinate when you should make a positive change.

Pisces Concentrate on changes going on at work or with you personally. Knowing what you are up against will encourage you to accept what's happening. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

P	B	S	■	U	R	G	E	D	■	■	J	A	M	B
A	R	I	■	T	H	E	M	E	■	L	U	N	A	R
L	O	X	■	M	O	T	I	F	■	O	M	N	I	A
I	N	T	R	O	■	■	R	O	L	Y	P	O	L	Y
■	C	H	O	S	E	N	■	E	E	O	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	T	L	A	S	■	E	L	A	N	D	S
M	E	L	D	■	B	I	A	S	■	A	L	I	E	N
I	T	E	M	■	A	L	L	O	T	■	A	N	K	A
B	A	N	A	L	■	S	A	N	E	■	B	E	E	P
S	L	O	P	E	D	■	D	I	A	N	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	S	I	B	■	C	R	I	M	P	S	■
S	E	L	A	S	S	I	E	■	■	G	A	I	L	Y
P	I	A	N	O	■	L	A	R	C	H	■	C	E	O
O	R	I	O	N	■	G	R	E	E	T	■	K	E	G
T	E	R	N	■	■	E	L	V	E	S	■	S	P	A

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